

1 The Honorable James L. Robart  
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

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12 THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE  
13 CENTER, et al.,

14 Plaintiffs,

15 v.  
16 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
17 HUMAN SERVICES, et al.,

Defendants.

CASE NO. C18-01442-JLR

**JOINT STATUS REPORT**

18 Plaintiffs THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE CENTER and MICHELLE  
19 DILLON and Defendants U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
20 SERVICES, ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, and OFFICE OF  
21 REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT hereby provide the Court with a Joint Status Report  
22 pursuant to the Court's April 11, 2019 Order (Dkt. No. 23).

23 As the Court is aware, Plaintiffs filed this Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA")  
24 action seeking certain documents from Defendants that Plaintiffs had requested pursuant  
25 to FOIA in August 2018. Since the last filing, the parties have worked on remedying  
26 technological issues that severely affect production of documents. Last week, Plaintiffs  
27 inquired as to whether the information technology issues could be addressed by seeking  
28 the requested documents from sources other than encrypted emails, which apparently

1 require email-by-email decryption. Defendants' counsel is in the process of determining  
2 whether this is a workable solution from Defendants' FOIA officers, but does not yet  
3 have a definitive answer. Counsel anticipate additional information to be exchanged in  
4 an attempt to simplify the process.

5 The parties propose a joint status report to be filed on or before June 3, 2019.

6 DATED this 6th day of May, 2019.

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8 Respectfully Submitted,  
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10 ARETE LAW GROUP PLLC  
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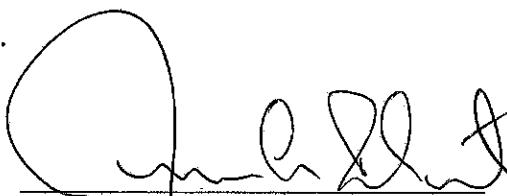
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2 [PROPOSED] ORDER  
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4 It is hereby ORDERED that:  
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6 The parties shall submit a joint status report to the Court on or before June 3,  
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8 2019.  
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10 Dated this 13 day of May, 2019.  
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14 Honorable James L. Robart  
15 United States District Court Judge  
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